

Testimony for Trillium

Josh Hite

My name is Joshua Hite I went to Trillium Academy in 8th grade. I was previously attending a traditional public school and my mother didn't think that it was the best for me. I was a mediocre student, nothing outstanding just sliding by. Honestly I was a bit skeptical about switching schools because I was worried about adjusting to the new environment. I soon found out that it was a lot easier than I thought, everyone was very kind and the class sizes were small which made the teachers able to teach us on a more personal level. For our electives we had to take a class that was either art or performing arts.

I decided to go with art. I never took an art class in my life so I wasn't sure what to expect. I was drawing a picture of a sunset, my teacher at the time was Ms. Eddy and assistant teacher Ms. Potter were walking around giving other students pointers about their artwork. I knew that I was next, Ms. Potter walked by and looked at my paper and all I saw was a simple picture nothing special. But she saw something different, she said, "Wow Josh you're an amazing artists, I feel like I'm actually in the picture." Personally I felt great, a teacher never pointed out something positive in me. From there on in I took every art class that was possible, sometimes I even took the same class twice. Ms. Potter ended up being my best friend in a way; she would help me on situations and give me the best advice to her ability. She helped me out of some tough situations no matter what it was. That made me strive to be a better student by far, I totally did a 360 as far as academics go.

Not only was I getting positive support from her I think that every teacher always had the most positive attitude there was. I never had a teacher tell me that I can't do it or I'm not fit out for this class.

As soon as they noticed they would have a one on one with me and try and work something out to help better my academics. I took a good hard look at my life and the direction I was going, my overall GPA at the time was a 2.45. And while I was in public school I thought that this was a good G.P.A but I didn't

want to go for just standard anymore, I wanted to test myself and strive to be the best I could. At the same time I knew it was really going to take some elbow grease. I realized that I still had time left before I graduate. My goal was to get a 4.0 I realized that this is a very high goal but I tried anyways. I began checking over everything that I did trying to make it as perfect as possible. By the end of the first trimester of 9th grade I managed to get a 3.1 my family and friends were very happy for me but I was disappointed in myself and thought it was impossible. But I kept trying.

Throughout 9th grade I kept getting in the 3.1 area. But by 10th grade I decided that it was enough, I began studying which was very new to me. I became very active in class always asking questions about anything that I wasn't sure on and all of my teachers were more than willing to answer them in fact they loved questions. I started to realize my weak points such as math and science, and was determined to fix it. I noticed that all my fellow peers began asking me for help on the work which was a very good feeling, because I was usually the one asking them for questions. I gradually started to get a higher G.P.A but not quite a 4.0 yet.

My science teacher Ms. Terzes was a very strict teacher and at first I didn't think I was going to do well in her class. But I tried regardless, I started to stay after school and study with her which dramatically changed my science grade. I found it not being my weakness anymore, but in fact the class I looked forward to everyday. She would always tell the class that she would stay after to help us but apparently I was the first to do it. I actually liked learning, and this was the last push I needed because by the first report card of the 11th grade I finally reached my goal with a solid 4.0. I was very happy that I

finally managed to get it and all of my teachers found out to and would tell me that I did a good job and some would say it to the whole class and everyone would clap.

At a traditional public school nothing like that would happen. I later received symposium of the year along with ten other students, and finished the 11th grade year with another 4.0. This was a lot for me and I gained the confidence that I needed by the help of the Trillium staff. After all of the hard work and the help of all my teachers I managed to change my overall G.P.A from a 2.45 to a 3.78 by the time I graduated. I'm currently attending Washtenaw community college and plan on transferring to Wayne State University. I want to become a Psychiatrist, because I want to help people just like my teachers helped me.